



**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

DAVID SANDERS, Ph.D.  
Director

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District


ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

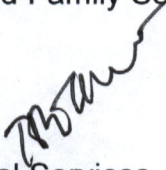
DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

May 1, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Director   
Department of Children and Family Services

Bryce Yokomizo, Director   
Department of Public Social Services

Subject: **DECEMBER 20, 2005 AMENDMENT TO BOARD AGENDA ITEM #44:  
SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES**

On December 20, 2005, your Board instructed the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to further enhance Skid Row Outreach efforts by making the Skid Row Family Outreach Team's (SROT) first priority child safety. In addition, it was requested that the Departments provide a monthly update on the status of the project.

The following is a third monthly update on the status of the coordinated service enhancements made in order to assure child safety, provide ongoing case management and enforce the Board's zero tolerance policy for families on Skid Row and the related outreach activities.



## **MONTHLY OUTREACH ACTIVITY REPORT**

During the first quarter of the year 2006, the DPSS EW's and SROT team members encountered a total of 182 families, approximately 60 families per month. DCFS assessed 93 families and 35 families were referred to DMH. The overall number of families seen per month is gradually decreasing each month and the SROT team is now encountering repeat families, as well. While 80% of the families were connected to supportive services such as CalWORKS, Food Stamps, Motel/Hotel voucher programs, and Family Preservation Services, either before the encounter with Skid Row staff or as the result of the encounter, about 20% required a higher level of services from DCFS and were referred to the Child Abuse Hotline for further investigation. Detailed information may be found in the attached statistical reports for the period of February 2006 and March 2006 (the report for January 2006 was submitted with the previous month's report).

The DCFS Child Protection Hotline is maintaining an internal flagging system to ensure that child abuse and neglect referrals related to the Skid Row area are flagged and expedited for assignment to the regional office. The purpose of this flagging system is to facilitate and expedite processing of Skid Row referrals generated from within the zip code area of 90013 to assure child safety and to maximize the coordination of services to homeless families.

From January 2006 to present, 50 situations were assessed as rising to the level to necessitate the initiation of a referral of suspected child abuse to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline (CAHL). These included referrals generated by the SROT and those initiated by other mandated reporters in the 90013 zip code area. Beyond this number, 12 additional situations required only consultation and were evaluated out due to duplication. Based on a review of these referrals, it appears that 30% of the 50 (15 referrals, 16 children) warranted the opening of a child protection services case and the removal of the children from the care and custody of their parents. The other families were assessed and connected to supportive services, such as Family Preservation and/or Alternative Response.

Of the 35 families assessed by the DMH SROT member, 22 families were clinically assessed at the Downtown Mental Health center and provided mental health services, and 13 required no further action.



### **STREET OUTREACH EFFORTS AND STAFFING**

The joint team of LASHA, DPSS, DMH and DCFS continue to provide outreach services to the families encountered on the streets of Skid Row during the daytime hours of 8 a.m. -5 p.m. DPSS staff are at the Midnight Mission from 6 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Union Rescue Mission from 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and at the Weingart Center from noon to 5 p.m. In addition, in the evenings and weekends, the DCFS Emergency Response Command Post after-hours staff patrol the streets for unaccompanied and at risk children and redirects families into the missions.

During this period, each County Department participating in the Skid Row Program has supplemented the number of full-time staff allocated to the program. DPSS has added three Homeless Case Managers to the 11 the eligibility staff collocated at Union Rescue Mission, Midnight Mission and Weingart Access Center. DMH continues to have one member on the SROT and five additional Psychiatrist Social Workers dedicated to provide mental health services at the 520 Maple Avenue Mental Health site. LAHSA continues to have two members on the team.

DCFS currently has one childrens' social worker (CSW) at the Union Rescue Mission, the equivalent of one full-time CSW on the SROT, and one full-time Supervising Childrens' Social Worker (SCSW) to oversee this staff. DCFS staff is at the Union Rescue Mission and participating on the SROT, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, in the evenings from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends, two DCFS Emergency Response Command Post after-hours staff patrol the streets for unaccompanied and at risk children and redirects families into the missions. DCFS has decided to augment its skid row staff with four additional CSWs. DCFS is in the process of recruiting the four additional full-time CSWs to work on Skid Row. The supervisor will oversee all CSWs on Skid Row.

Program Site Managers representing each of the County Departments participating in the SROT - DPSS, DCFS, DMH, and LAHSA - continue to meet weekly to evaluate the effectiveness of the SROT procedures, meet with the SROT members, and conduct weekly case reviews with the SROT members. In addition, some sessions included the participation of the CAO Service Integration Branch. The process for conducting these reviews will be enhanced to incorporate a team decision making process facilitated by a team leader. It is anticipated that these modifications will enhance the overall quality of the sessions and ensure that there is appropriate follow through with each family.



## **HOMELESS DATABASE IMPLEMENTATION**

The Homeless database Permanent Housing Assistance Services (PHASE) was developed and implemented by DPSS on April 3, 2006. It tracks each homeless family and maintains information on the financial, housing assistance, supportive, health, and mental health services that are provided by each of the County Departments. Each staff member has access to the system and can review information input by the members of the County Outreach Team, as well as from DPSS Homeless Case Managers stationed in DPSS offices countywide.

DCFS does not have direct access on site to interview all of the families encountered by DPSS at the Midnight Mission and Weingart Access Center. To compensate for this lack of direct contact, DCFS has allocated three laptop computers for the DCFS staff on the project. This will provide DCFS staff direct access to the CWS/CMS database for purposes of screening families entered into the PHASE database to determine if they have received prior services from California child protection agencies. This activity was previously completed by telephone to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline for families encountered directly by the DCFS staff on the SROT and at the Union Rescue Mission.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The Department of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services remain committed to attaining the goals of assuring child safety, providing ongoing case management and enforcing the Board's zero tolerance policy for families on Skid Row. We are excited about the new opportunities that have been identified during the collaboration between County Departments and the community agencies that will assist Skid Row families in the care and protection of children. At this time, we are in the process of reviewing our existing protocols with the Chief Administrative Office Service Integration Branch in an attempt to enhance our efforts to provide on-going services to homeless families.

DS:BY:rm

### **Attachments:**

- I. February 2006 - Monthly Report on Skid Row Outreach Strategies
- II. March 2006 - Monthly Report on Skid Row Outreach Strategies

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



# MONTHLY REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Month of: February 2006

	This Month	Since 1/1/2006
<b>A. Families seen by DPSS EWs and SROT</b>		
1. Walk-ins at Weingart Access Center	15	26
2. Walk-ins at Midnight Mission	18	59
3. Walk-ins at Union Rescue Mission	7	16
4. Contacted by Skid Row Outreach Team	10	24
a. Taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	1	2
b. Not taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	9	22
<b>Total (from A.1+ 2+3+4)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>B. Families Receiving or Referred to CalWORKs</b>		
1. Number of families receiving CalWORKs	39	94
2. Number of families referred to CalWORKs	5	19
3. Number of families who declined a CalWORKs referral	6	12
<b>Total (B.1+2+3)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>C. Reason Families Decline a CalWORKs Referral (from B.3)</b>		
1. Immigration status	0	0
2. Receiving aid in another state	3	3
3. Concerned with DCFS involvement	0	0
4. Child custody issues	1	1
5. Refused to state	0	1
6. Other (state reason)	2	7
<b>Total (C.1+2+3+4+5+6)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>D. Families Referred To CalWORKs (from B.2)</b>		
1. Approved and issued CalWORKs	4	15
2. Denied CalWORKs (i.e., excess income, working full-time)	0	0
3. Not processed (client walked out)	1	4
<b>Total (D.1+2+3)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>E. Homeless Assistance/Services (from B.1 and D.1)</b>		
1. Approved and issued Homeless Assistance (HA)	10	33
2. Denied Homeless Assistance (not homeless, exhausted benefits)	32	63
a. Exhausted benefits/Referred for emergency shelter/voucher	25	35
b. Not homeless/Staying with friends/relatives or other housing arrangement	7	28
3. Declined DPSS Homeless Assistance	7	24
<b>Total (E.1+2+3)</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>F. Reason for Declining Homeless Assistance (from E.3)</b>		
1. Already participating in a homeless program with a shelter/mission	6	11
2. Other arrangement (state arrangement)	1	13
<b>Total (F.1+2)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>G. Welfare-to-Work (from B.1 and D.1)</b>		
1. In GAIN	18	45
2. Employed	3	31
3. GAIN Exempt	18	22
a. Disabled	3	3
b. Child under 1	6	6
c. Undocumented/Child only	9	9
d. Caring for disabled relative	0	0
4. Time Limited	3	3
<b>Total (G.1+2+3+4)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>H. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Services</b>		
1. Evaluated for the CalWORKs Homeless Families Project	0	0
2. Referred for Clinical Assessment/Referred to Downtown Mental Health	10	18
3. Referred for Crisis Intervention	0	0
4. Referred for Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) evaluation	0	0
5. No action needed	0	10
<b>I. Department of Children &amp; Family Services (DCFS)</b>		
1. Screened for DCFS services	50	125
2. Conducted DCFS assessment	23	40
3. Referred to Child Protective Services/Hotline	3	6
4. Referred to Family Support Services (i.e., family intervention/counseling/etc.)	0	0
5. Checked for Prior Child Welfare History	23	40

Note: Additionally, in February 2006, the SROT encountered 61 families previously seen.



# MONTHLY REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Month of: March 2006

	This Month	Since 1/1/2006
<b>A. Families seen by DPSS EWs and SROT</b>		
1. Walk-ins at Weingart Access Center	12	38
2. Walk-ins at Midnight Mission	25	84
3. Walk-ins at Union Rescue Mission	13	29
4. Contacted by Skid Row Outreach Team	7	31
a. Taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	1	3
b. Not taken/referred to the Weingart Access Center/Midnight Mission/UR	6	28
<b>Total (from A.1+ 2+3+4)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>B. Families Receiving or Referred to CalWORKs</b>		
1. Number of families receiving CalWORKs	41	135
2. Number of families referred to CalWORKs	7	26
3. Number of families who declined a CalWORKs referral	9	21
<b>Total (B.1+2+3)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>C. Reason Families Decline a CalWORKs Referral (from B.3)</b>		
1. Immigration status	3	3
2. Receiving aid in another state	0	3
3. Concerned with DCFS involvement	0	0
4. Child custody issues	3	4
5. Refused to state	0	1
6. Other (state reason)	3	10
<b>Total (C.1+2+3+4+5+6)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>D. Families Referred To CalWORKs (from B.2)</b>		
1. Approved and issued CalWORKs	6	21
2. Denied CalWORKs (i.e., excess income, working full-time)	1	1
3. Not processed (client walked out)	0	4
<b>Total (D.1+2+3)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>E. Homeless Assistance/Services (from B.1 and D.1)</b>		
1. Approved and issued Homeless Assistance (HA)	12	45
2. Denied Homeless Assistance (not homeless, exhausted benefits)	24	87
a. Exhausted benefits/Referred for emergency shelter/voucher	19	54
b. Not homeless/Staying with friends/relatives or other housing arrangement	5	33
3. Declined DPSS Homeless Assistance	11	35
<b>Total (E.1+2+3)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>F. Reason for Declining Homeless Assistance (from E.3)</b>		
1. Already participating in a homeless program with a shelter/mission	7	18
2. Other arrangement (state arrangement)	4	17
<b>Total (F.1+2)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>G. Welfare-to-Work (from B.1 and D.1)</b>		
1. In GAIN	16	61
2. Employed	0	31
3. GAIN Exempt	28	50
a. Disabled	0	3
b. Child under 1	14	20
c. Undocumented/Child only	14	23
d. Caring for disabled relative	0	0
4. Time Limited	3	6
<b>Total (G.1+2+3+4)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>H. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Services</b>		
1. Evaluated for the CalWORKs Homeless Families Project	0	0
2. Referred for Clinical Assessment/Referred to Downtown Mental Health	4	22
3. Referred for Crisis Intervention	0	0
4. Referred for Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) evaluation	0	0
5. No action needed	3	13
<b>I. Department of Children &amp; Family Services (DCFS)</b>		
1. Screened for DCFS services	57	182
2. Conducted DCFS assessment	53	93
3. Referred to Child Protective Services/Hotline	4	10
4. Referred to Family Support Services (i.e., family intervention/counseling/etc.)	8	8
5. Checked for Prior Child Welfare History	13	13
6. Checked for Prior Child Welfare History	53	93

Note: Additionally, in March 2006, the SROT encountered 69 families previously seen.